



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Am
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/833,388	04/11/2001	Frederick Baker	CISCP201	3780
22434	7590	03/25/2005	EXAMINER	
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS LLP				OSMAN, RAMY M
P.O. BOX 70250				ART UNIT
OAKLAND, CA 94612-0250				PAPER NUMBER
				2157

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/833,388	BAKER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ramy M Osman	2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 November 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-44 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 32 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to amendment filed on 11/09/2004. Claims 1-44 are pending.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 32 objected to because of the following informalities: Change the misspelled word “sysstem” to “system”. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-8,11-16,19-25,28-37 and 40-42 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jindal et al (US Patent No 6,092,178) in view of Mulligan (US Patent No 6,212,190).**

5. In reference to claims 1,20,28 and 40, Jindal teaches a method, a computer program product and an apparatus respectively for providing information for selecting a content server to a network node associated with a client, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a response, message transmitted by a network node associated with a client for selecting a content server (Abstract and column 2 line 65 – column 3 line 19);

providing a response datagram, the response datagram associated with the received request (Abstract and column 3 lines 25-60);

transmitting the response to the network node associated with the client for selecting a content server wherein reception of the response by the network node provides information for selecting a content server (Abstract, column 3 lines 20-65 and column 9 lines 34-67).

Jindal fails to explicitly teach where the packets are fragmented wherein the multiple fragments are obtained by dividing the response datagram into multiple fragments, and transmitting the multiple fragments to a network node. However, Mulligan teaches network communication utilizing Maximum Transfer Units (MTU). Mulligan discloses a network device fragmenting a packet into smaller fragments according to a maximum transfer unit so that it can be transmitted over a network segment towards a destination (column 1 lines 35-67, Summary and column 8 lines 10-50). Mulligan also discloses wherein the network is configured to allow transmission of the response datagram onto the network without dividing the response datagram into smaller fragments (column 9 lines 40-45).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jindal by fragmenting the response packets wherein the multiple fragments are obtained by dividing the response datagram into multiple fragments, and transmitting the multiple fragments to a network node as per the teachings of Mulligan so that the packets can be fitted according to a maximum transfer unit of the network segment it will traverse.

6. In regards to claims 2,3,29 and 30, Jindal teaches the method and apparatus of claims 1 and 28 respectively. Jindal fails to teach wherein the fragments are transmitted between intervals. However, Mulligan discloses wherein the fragments are transmitted between intervals (Summary, column 8 line 45 – column 9 line 40 and column 11 lines 10-30).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jindal by fragmenting the response packets according to a maximum transfer unit and sending them in intervals as per the teachings of Mulligan so that the packets can conform to the network segment requirements it will traverse.

7. In reference to claims 4 and 31, Jindal teaches the method and apparatus of claims 1 and 28 respectively, wherein the network node responsible for selecting a content server is a local domain name server (Summary and figure 1).

8. In reference to claim 5 and 32, Jindal teaches the method and apparatus of claims 1 and 28 respectively, wherein the network node responsible for selecting a content server is a server selection system (Summary and column 6 lines 25-67).

9. In reference to claims 6,21 and 33, Jindal fails to teach wherein the request is a Boomerang Control Protocol (BCP) message. However, “Official notice” is taken that BCP is well known in the art as a process corresponding to request/response (also see Applicants Admitted Prior Art, specification pg 2 lines 20-25 & pg 3 lines 1-10).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jindal to incorporate BCP. One would be motivated to do so because it is a well known protocol that implements a request/response process.

10. In reference to claims 7,22 and 34, Jindal teaches the method, computer program and apparatus of claims 6,21 and 33 respectively, wherein the response is a DNS reply (Summary and column 5 lines 15-67).

11. In reference to claims 8 and 35, Jindal teaches the method and apparatus of claims 1 and 28 respectively, wherein the multiple response fragments comprise fragments of a DNS reply (Summary and column 5 lines 15-67).

12. In reference to claim 11, Jindal teaches method for providing information associated with a network for selecting a content server, the method comprising:

receiving a request from the server selection system for a response message (Abstract and column 2 line 65 – column 3 line 19);

providing a response datagram, the response datagram corresponding to the response message (Abstract and column 3 lines 25-60);

transmitting the response to the network node associated with the client for selecting a content server wherein reception of the response provides information for selecting a content server (Abstract, column 3 lines 20-65 and column 9 lines 34-67).

Jindal fails to explicitly teach identifying a maximum transfer unit, wherein the maximum transfer unit is the upper bound on the amount of data that can be transferred as a single datagram, dividing the response datagram into multiple fragments, and transmitting the multiple fragments to a network node. However, Mulligan teaches network communication utilizing Maximum Transfer Units (MTU). Mulligan discloses a network device fragmenting a packet into smaller fragments according to a maximum transfer unit so that it can be transmitted

over a network segment towards a destination (column 1 lines 35-67, Summary and column 8 lines 10-50).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jindal by fragmenting the response packets wherein the multiple fragments are obtained by dividing the response datagram into multiple fragments, and transmitting the multiple fragments to a network node as per the teachings of Mulligan so that the packets can be fitted according to a maximum transfer unit of the network segment it will traverse.

13. In reference to claim 12, Jindal fails to teach wherein the request is a Boomerang Control Protocol (BCP) message. However, “Official notice” is taken that BCP is well known in the art as a process corresponding to request/response (also see Applicants Admitted Prior Art, specification pg 2 lines 20-25 & pg 3 lines 1-10).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jindal to incorporate BCP. One would be motivated to do so because it is a well known protocol that implements a request/response process.

14. In reference to claim 13, Jindal teaches the method of claim 12, wherein the response is a DNS reply (Summary and column 5 lines 15-67).

15. In reference to claim 14, Jindal teaches the method of claim 11 wherein the multiple response fragments comprise fragments of a DNS reply (Summary and column 5 lines 15-67).

16. In reference to claims 15,24 and 36, Jindal teaches the method, computer program and apparatus of claims 11,20 and 28 respectively. Jindal fails to explicitly teach wherein the multiple response fragments are associated with network layer length fields and transport layer length fields. However, Mulligan discloses multiple response fragments are associated with

network layer length fields and transport layer length fields (column 6 line 65 – column 7 line 15, column 7 lines 33-55 and column 10 lines 50-67).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jindal wherein multiple response fragments are associated with network layer length fields and transport layer length fields as per the teachings of Mulligan so that the packets can be fitted according to a maximum transfer unit of the network segment it will traverse.

17. In reference to claim 16,25 and 37, Jindal teaches the method, computer program and apparatus of claims 15, 24 and 36 respectively. Jindal fails to explicitly teach wherein the network layer length fields are increased while the transport layer length fields are unmodified. However, Mulligan discloses network layer length fields are increased while the transport layer length fields are unmodified (column 6 line 65 – column 7 line 15, column 7 lines 33-55 and column 10 lines 50-67).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jindal wherein network layer length fields are increased while the transport layer length fields are unmodified as per the teachings of Mulligan so that the packets can be fitted according to a maximum transfer unit of the network segment it will traverse.

18. In reference to claim 19, Jindal teaches method for providing information to a network node associated with a client, the information provided for selecting a content server from a plurality of content servers, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a response from a server selection system responsible for selecting a content server (Abstract and column 2 line 65 – column 3 line 19);

providing a response datagram, the response datagram associated with the received request (Abstract and column 3 lines 25-60);

transmitting the response to the network node associated with the client for selecting a content server wherein reception of the response provides information for selecting a content server (Abstract, column 3 lines 20-65 and column 9 lines 34-67).

Jindal fails to explicitly teach where the packets are fragmented wherein the multiple fragments are obtained by dividing the response datagram into multiple fragments, and transmitting the multiple fragments to a network node. However, Mulligan teaches network communication utilizing Maximum Transfer Units (MTU). Mulligan discloses a network device fragmenting a packet into smaller fragments according to a maximum transfer unit so that it can be transmitted over a network segment towards a destination (column 1 lines 35-67, Summary and column 8 lines 10-50).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jindal by fragmenting the response packets wherein the multiple fragments are obtained by dividing the response datagram into multiple fragments, and transmitting the multiple fragments to a network node as per the teachings of Mulligan so that the packets can be fitted according to a maximum transfer unit of the network segment it will traverse.

19. In reference to claim 23, Jindal teaches the computer program of claim 22, wherein reception of all of the fragments by the network node provides drop rate information to the network node associated with the client (column 3 lines 12-25 & 33-37).

20. In reference to claim 41, Jindal teaches the apparatus of claim 40. Jindal fails to explicitly teach wherein the multiple response fragments are associated with network layer length fields

and transport layer length fields. However, Mulligan discloses multiple response fragments are associated with network layer length fields and transport layer length fields (column 6 line 65 – column 7 line 15, column 7 lines 33-55 and column 10 lines 50-67).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jindal wherein multiple response fragments are associated with network layer length fields and transport layer length fields as per the teachings of Mulligan so that the packets can be fitted according to a maximum transfer unit of the network segment it will traverse.

21. In reference to claim 42, Jindal teaches the apparatus of claim 41. Jindal fails to explicitly teach wherein the network layer length fields are increased while the transport layer length fields are unmodified. However, Mulligan discloses network layer length fields are increased while the transport layer length fields are unmodified (column 6 line 65 – column 7 line 15, column 7 lines 33-55 and column 10 lines 50-67).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jindal wherein network layer length fields are increased while the transport layer length fields are unmodified as per the teachings of Mulligan so that the packets can be fitted according to a maximum transfer unit of the network segment it will traverse.

22. **Claims 9,10,17,18,26,27,38,39,43 and 44 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jindal (US Patent No 6,092,178) in view of Mulligan (US Patent No 6,212,190) in further view of Baehr (US Patent No 5,884,025).**

23. In reference to claims 9 and 10, Jindal teaches the method of claim 1. Jindal fails to explicitly teach wherein the multiple response fragments are padded with data. However, Baehr

teaches a system adding data to a packet for fragmentation thus allowing it to be fragmented (Summary and column 9 lines 15-50).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jindal by fragmenting the response packets as per the teachings of Baehr so that the packets can be fragmented according to a maximum transfer unit of the network segment it will traverse.

24. In reference to claims 17,18,26 and 27, Jindal teaches the method and computer program of claims 11 and 20 respectively. Jindal fails to explicitly teach wherein the multiple response fragments are padded with data. However, Baehr teaches a system adding data to a packet for fragmentation thus allowing it to be fragmented (Summary and column 9 lines 15-50).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jindal by fragmenting the response packets as per the teachings of Baehr so that the packets can be fragmented according to a maximum transfer unit of the network segment it will traverse.

25. In reference to claims 38,39,43 and 44, Jindal teaches the apparatus of claims 28 and 40 above. Jindal fails to explicitly teach wherein the multiple response fragments are padded with data. However, Baehr teaches a system adding data to a packet for fragmentation thus allowing it to be fragmented (Summary and column 9 lines 15-50).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jindal by fragmenting the response packets as per the teachings of Baehr so that the packets can be fragmented according to a maximum transfer unit of the network segment it will traverse.

Response to Amendment

26. Examiner acknowledges amendment filed on 11/9/2004. No claims were amended, cancelled or added.

Response to Arguments

27. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 have been considered but they are not persuasive.

28. Applicant's arguments on page 7 of the response filed 11/9/2004 fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references. Applicant fails to state what Jindal or Mulligan do not teach in regards to the independent claims.

29. On page 8 of applicants response filed 11/9/2004, applicant argues that neither Jindal nor Mulligan teach or suggest "wherein reception of all of the fragments by the network node provide drop rate information". However, Jindal does disclose providing drop rate information to a network node (column 3 lines 12-25 & 33-37). Jindal teaches a DNS server (which is equivalent to applicants 'network node') is appraised of throughput / reponse time of available servers. The server with the highest throughput or lowest response time will be selected to service a request. The throughput/response time information of the available servers inherently encompass drop rate information. Therefore, drop rate information is provided to the node. Applicant does not detail the format of this 'drop rate information' and therefore it is broadly interpreted as explained above.

30. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

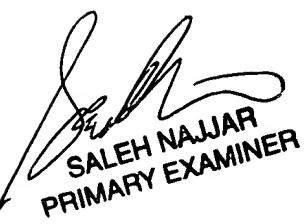
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramy M Osman whose telephone number is (571) 272-4008. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RMO
March 11, 2005



SALEH NAJJAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER